

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of March 14, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 2-15, 20, 25 and 26 remain pending in this application. Claims 27-30 and 48 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 31-35 and 39-47 have been canceled as directed to a non-elected invention and are being pursued in a continuation application. Claims 1, 16-19, 21-24 and 36-38 have canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter thereof in a continuation application. New claims 49-60 have been added.

Preliminarily, applicants note with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 5-6 and 25-26 have been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if amended to incorporate all the features of their ultimate base claim and any intervening claims.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 7-13, 15, 19-24, 36 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,753,830 B2 Gelbman. Claims 16-18 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelbman in view of in view of U.S. patent no. 6,056,195 to Spain. Claim 14 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelbman in view U.S. publication no. 2003/0174072 A1 to Salomon. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Notwithstanding the merits of the rejections, to obtain immediate allowance applicants have rewritten claim 5 in independent form to place the application in condition for allowance per the action's indication of the same. Also, applicants have amended claim 25 to incorporate the features of previous claims 19 and 21, and believe that claim 25 is allowable for at least the reasons indicated in the action. Also, applicants have amended claims 2-4, 7-10, and 14 to depend from claim 5. As such, claims 2-4 and 6-14 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their base claim, and further in view of the additional advantageous features recited therein. Also, applicants have rewritten claim 15 in independent form to incorporate the features of claim

5 and have added new claims 49-60 to correspond to claims 6-14 and 2-4 as amended, respectively. Thus, claims 15 and 49-60 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 5, and its dependent claims. Also, claim 20 has been amended to depend from claim 25, and along with claim 26 is considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 25, and further in view of the additional advantageous features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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